

What is claimed is:

1. A method of parsing content received by at least one client coupled to a server, said method comprising:
 - receiving, by at least one client, a parser from a server;
 - 5 reconstructing said parser in a web browser operating in said at least one client;
 - and
 - parsing the received content by said at least one client.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said parser is received by said at least one client as a collection of Java classes and a serialized Java object.
- 10 3. The method of claim 2, further including the acts of:
 - parsing said received content using a Java portion of the client-side parser; and
 - placing a call, as needed, into JavaScript for a rule script.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the act of receiving, by at least one client, a parser from a server occurs at any time prior to a first parse request.
- 15 5. The method of claim 3, further including the acts of:
 - selecting, by said at least one client, a parsing object corresponding to said
 - received content, said parsing object containing at least one parsing rule
 - having at least one expression; and
 - parsing, by said at least one client, said content according to said at least one
 - 20 parsing rule.
6. The method of claim 5, further including the act of combining said at least one expression into a top-level expression.
7. The method of claim 6, further including the acts of applying said top-level expression to said received content; determining the first best match in the input;

and continuing from the end of the last match until the end of said received content is reached.

8. The method of claim 7, further including the act of dividing said received content into fragments of text, wherein at least some of said fragments comprise text matching a specific one of said at least one parsing rule.

9. The method of claim 8, further including the act of defining a tree structure containing said at least one parsing rules and their associated text object.

10. The method of claim 9, further including the acts of iterating through said tree; executing said rules; and reformatting said received content.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein as each said rule is executed, an associated rule script is called and executed to reformat said received content.

12. The method of claim 10, where said rule scripts may be executed at predetermined points in the reformatting process.

13. The method of claim 10, where said rule scripts may be executed at predetermined points in the parsing process.

14. A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of parsing content received by at least one client coupled to a server, said method comprising the acts of:

receiving, by at least one client, a parser from a server;

reconstructing said parser in a web browser operating in said at least one client; and

parsing the received content by said at least one client.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein said parser is received by said at least one client as a collection of Java classes and a serialized Java object.

16. The device of claim 15, said method further including the acts of:
- parsing said received content using a Java portion of the client-side parser; and
 - placing a call, as needed, into JavaScript for a rule script.
17. The device of claim 15, wherein the act of receiving, by at least one client, a parser
5 from a server occurs at any time prior to a first parse request.
18. The device of claim 15, said method further including the acts of:
- selecting, by said at least one client, a parsing object corresponding to said
received content, said parsing object containing at least one parsing rule
having at least one expression; and
 - 10 parsing, by said at least one client, said content according to said at least one
parsing rule.
19. The device of claim 18, said method further including the act of combining said at
least one expression into a top-level expression.
20. The device of claim 19, said method further including the acts of applying said top-
15 level expression to said received content; determining the first best match in the
input; and continuing from the end of the last match until the end of said received
content is reached.
21. The device of claim 20, said method further including the act of dividing said
received content into fragments of text, wherein at least some of said fragments
20 comprise text matching a specific one of said at lease one parsing rule.
22. The device of claim 21, said method further including the act of defining a tree
structure containing said at least one parsing rules and their associated text object.
23. The device of claim 22, said method further including the acts of iterating through
said tree; executing said rules; and reformatting said received content.

24. An apparatus for parsing content received by at least one client coupled to a server, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a parser from a server;

means for reconstructing said parser in a web browser operating in said at least one client; and

means for parsing the received content by said at least one client.

25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said parser is received by said at least one client as a collection of Java classes and a serialized Java object.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, said method further including the acts of:

means for parsing said received content using a Java portion of the client-side parser; and

means for placing a call, as needed, into JavaScript for a rule script.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the act of receiving, by at least one client, a parser from a server occurs at any time prior to a first parse request.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, said method further including the acts of:

means for selecting, by said at least one client, a parsing object corresponding to said received content, said parsing object containing at least one parsing rule having at least one expression; and

means for parsing, by said at least one client, said content according to said at least one parsing rule.

29. The apparatus of claim 28, said method further including means for combining said at least one expression into a top-level expression.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, said method further including means for applying said top-level expression to said received content; means for determining the first best

match in the input; and means for continuing from the end of the last match until the end of said received content is reached.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, said method further including means for dividing said received content into fragments of text, wherein at least some of said fragments
5 comprise text matching a specific one of said at lease one parsing rule.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, said method further including means for defining a tree structure containing said at least one parsing rules and their associated text object.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, said method further including means for iterating through said tree; executing said rules; and reformatting said received content.

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